

BLACK FLAG

Vol. VI

No. 4

Sept. 1980

25p

Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross

BOLIVIA - FASCIST COUP

The External Coordinating Secretariat of the COB, from its provisional base in Paris, issues this fraternal appeal to all trade union bodies, political parties and democrats at large to denounce the coup d'etat mounted against the Bolivian people by the armed forces' high command and the most reactionary quarters of the nation, and to hold General Luis Garcia Meza responsible for the lives and physical well-being of all those held in detention in Bolivia.

Partial list of some comrades who were present in the COB premises when those premises were attacked by the Military.

Juan Lechin Oquendo (COB Executive Secretary)
Oscar Sanjinez (COB General Secretary)
Simon Reyes (COB Secretary for International Relations)
Liber Forti (COB Cultural Advisor and Miners Federation Cultural Advisor)
Gualberto Vega (Member of the Miners Federation (MURDER CONFIRMED))
N. Cosio (Miners' Leader)
Julio Tumiri (priest, Chairman of the Human Rights Commission and member of CONADE i.e. National Committee for the Defence of Democracy)
Marcelo Quiroga (Conade member) (CONFIRMED MURDER)
Victor Sosa (CONADE member)
Eduardo Dominguez (CONADE member)

The Secretariat deems it urgent that everything be done to compel the military to reveal the names of all whom they hold in detention and also the hard and fast assurances be given with regard to the comrades included in the partial list above...a list we have been able to compile thanks to the statements of a colleague who has just arrived from Bolivia.

FOR THE CENTRAL OBERA BOLIVIA (COB) EXTERNAL COORDINATING SECRETARIAT

Jose Justiniano

Paris 24 July 1980
PROVISIONAL ADDRESS: c/o
CFDT., 5 Rue Cadet, Paris
9 eme FRANCE.



BACKGROUND TO THE COUP

For seven years, from August 1971 to December 1978 Bolivia groaned beneath the most brutal dictatorship it has ever known...the dictatorship headed by General Banzer.

Despite vicious repression the Bolivian people stood fast in their rejection and resistance to the Banzer dictatorship. This resistance culminated in December 1977 in the hunger strike launched by 4 miners' wives and taken up by over 1700 people right across the country.

This mobilization of the people tipped the balance in favour of the opening of the fragile "democratic process" which General Meza's coup d'etat now seeks to interrupt. This process was always jeopardised by the 'golpista' tradition of the Bolivian army. Thus on 3 occasions the armed forces succeeded in having the results of general elections annulled. This latest coup has put an end of the "democratic process" which had allowed the candidate of the UDP. (People's Democratic Union) to emerge victorious from the recent general election on 29th June 1980.

Continues on Page 5

HAVERS HAVERS Attorney-General LIES

In an amazing personal attack upon the four who stood trial in the "Persons Unknown" trial, Sir Michael Havers, MP Conservative Attorney General, accused them of having had a hit list of targets. This was never produced at the trial, nor even afterwards when the slimy Judge King-Hamilton - as we now know at the instigation of the Attorney General - read a document inadmissible in evidence and unproduced during the trial when it would have been laughed out of court - in order to gain a political verdict in a now confessedly political trial. (Even the Attorney General now refers to the "Anarchists' Trial" - which King-Hamilton then denied it was). He got a political verdict of guilty, in the press, to weigh against a defeat and verdict of not guilty in the courts thanks to a vigilant jury.

Obituary

Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi



How beautiful it would have been to see your lifeless corpse dangling from the iron gate before your majestic palace, as the flames began appearing as ghosts might appear in your torture chambers. To hear the sound of breaking glass, and the occasional report of a gun, and see the broken fragments scattered across the lawn, discarded during the looting, the smell of smoke, acrid and oily of your burning limousine, your shiny rich man's shoes turning like a weather vane - first south, then east, then south, then west, then north, in the direction of all your crimes... But you have died in comfort, perhaps surprised that you were not, after all, immortal. Your multitudinous crimes have once again, I think of you and I spit, happy at least that you are now dead and gone!

Architect of modern Persia

Watch Poland!

The wave of sit-in strikes by Polish workers is the most significant feature we have seen in the international revolutionary scene for a decade. As Gierk flies police into Gdansk, he warns that though "industrial democracy will be increased" and there will be stricter price controls, "there are limits to what the country can allow." In the West this is expressed in economic terms, in the "East" in political terms. The leadership is prepared to debate and make compromises" but "ANARCHISTIC GROUPS ARE TRYING TO EXPLOIT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS FOR POLITICAL ENDS....HERE THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE...the party could not tolerate any activities aimed at undercutting the Socialist system." But the people can tolerate nothing less.

CONTENTS

ANARCHO-QUIZ.....	PAGE 2
ROOM N ABOUT.....	PAGE 3
INTERNATIONAL NEWS.....	PAGE 5
LORENZO KOMBOA ERVIN.....	PAGE 7
LETTERS.....	PAGE 9
COURT CIRCULAR.....	PAGE 11
REPORT FROM SOUTH LONDON.....	PAGE 12

AND MORE!!

Continues on Back Page

BLACK FLAG

ORGAN of the ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS



VOLUME VI No.4 25p

PUBLISHED BY BLACK FLAG,
OVER THE WATER, SANDAY,
ORKNEY, KW17 2BL U.K.

Printed by Little @ Ltd.,
Metropolitan Wharf, C.1.,
Wapping, London, E1.

TYPESETTING & LAYOUT by
Black Flag Collective.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
£5.00 per 12 issues
(home)
Canada/Australia/USA/
N.Z. - \$18.00airmail
\$ 9.50 seamail

STATE OF PLAY as at
14th August

Sales &	£	£
Subscriptions	300.80	
donations*	17.00	317.80

Printing - paid	
on account	155.00
Postage	95.43
Stationery	10.59
Salaries usual	NIL
Gained on issue (but	261.02
owing £445 for print-	
ing)	56.78

Deficit c/fwd....	2837.34
balance	- 56.78
	£2780.56

*London JG £4; Surrey GA £2;
Sussex BRA £2; MS £2;
Glos JS £5 = £17

One of our collective is
doing research into fall-out
shelters. Any information on
this matter would be much
appreciated.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Cienfuegos Press Review No.5
Subscriptions U.K. £12.00
Towards A Citizens Militia:
Anarchist Alternatives to
NATO & the Warsaw Pact £1.50
North American Anarchist
bi-mon. newspaper 40p August/
September & June/July.
Xtra! - London Anarchist
Newspaper. Monthly 30p

Posters advocating the Murray
Campaign for Conjugal Rights
are available from: STEVE
WOODS, c/o St. Aidans Park
Road, Fairfield DUBLIN 3.
Marie & Noel Murray are
hoping to take the Republic
if Ireland to the International
Court.

PRISONERS/RESISTANCE FUND

In hand: £73.14
SS (Guam) £49.93; SB
(Hants) £19. Total: £142.07.
£20 to Spanish prisoners.
Balance in hand £122.07.

Thanks to our two regular
weekly contributors whose
amounts have made up this
fine total. Thanks also to
those who have sent direct
to various causes mentioned
in our columns.



Anarchist news from
around the world. Latest
issue focuses on "Les-
sons from the 70's/Strat-
egies for the 80's." Arti-
cles on: Revolutionary
Cyclists; Dutch housing
riots; Gutless ecology;

Anarcha-Feminism; Sub-
versive comics; The
disintegration of Amer-
ica; An Italian anarchist
program, plus more. 36
pages. On Newsstands
now, or \$1.50 from the

Open Road, Box 6135,
Sta. G., Vancouver B.C.,
V6R 4G5, Canada.

The famous pyramid poster by
FLAVIO CONSTANTINI; multi-
coloured, for sale through
Black Flag. Cheap £1.

Black Flag badges are avail-
able through BLACK FLAG, 2
colours red/black, 15p.

The above publications and
more will be available
through the new anarchist
distribution centre. Sned
more for details to :
Rising Free Basement, 182
Upper Street, London N1.

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

It is clear the Tories who go on about 'secret
subsidies', 'where does the money come from?' and throwing
in allegations about bank raids and foreign involvements,
"don't know their own stupid business". Indeed, how could
they? Politicians may talk about private enterprise but when
it comes to it they all depend upon their State wages and
State subsidies, or sell out for State bribes. The way the
market works, if enough people want something, and are
prepared to pay sufficient, it will continue; if not, it's
not so much the purveyors who are in trouble but in those who
are foolish enough to give them credit (Be warned, Little
@....) Black Flag is as dependent on the free market as
any capitalist enterprise, save for those who fork out to
keep it going (see Donations list); our deficit may look
alarming but it is taken care of, by private arrangement,
by two eminent unsympathisers (Barclaycard and Access),
According to our figures, between 1975 and 1980 the loss went
from £345 to £2539 which is around £438 a year or £8 a week,
carrying the whole postage of the Black Cross, the rent of the
former club at Havestock Hill and more recently the purchase
of an electric typewriter to set the Flag, which isn't too
high to pay.

No salaries are paid (which is just as well as
a fair reckonong on Union rates would be £3000 per copy)
If things can go on as they are, the Flag could easily hold
its own and maybe one day break even.

However the purpose of the Flag, among other things,
is to sustain the Black Cross and it cannot do that while
steadily though mildly losing. All we need is for subscript-
ions to be paid up; we rarely send reminders (one day we will)
knowing that many people are supporting so many of the
causes we urge. Hence we rarely stop sending except on
request or notification that the person concerned died ten
years before, or changed address five years ago without
telling us and is telling everyone we don't send the paper
any longer....Dear reader, even dear ex-reader, here is a
chance to help political prisoners without the cost of a
penny...tell us if you don't want to receive the Flag any
longer? Every penny we save on postage can go to our
prisoners funds.

Meanwhile plenty paid up following the heartfelt cry
last issue.....thanks.

We regret to hear of the
deaths of the following:
ISABEL GARCIA GASCO,
veteran of the Spanish
Civil War resistance who
gave valuable assist-
ance to BLACK FLAG

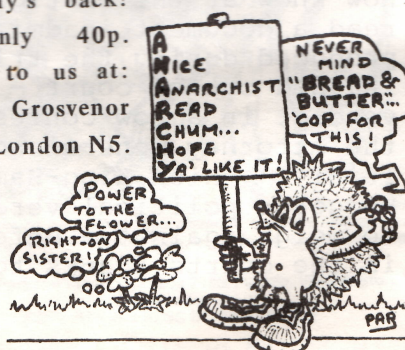
&
MOLLIE STEIMER, veteran
of the Black Cross in
pre-revolutionary Russia,
fighter of Anarchism in
the United States and
Soviet Russia, who lived
in London and Mexico City
respectively.

+
RICHARD CARTOON CAMPBELL
whilst in custody of the
Warders at ASHFORD REMAND
CENTRE.



Anarchy's back!
& only 40p.

Write to us at:
37A Grosvenor
Ave., London N5.
please



ANARCHO - QUIZ

1. What two important events in the history of aviation occurred in 1903?
2. What outmoded revolutionary theory (still current, though in some quarters) was shattered by John Tyndall?
3. A ship turned up in Barcelona in 1949 to receive a rousing reception from the dockers and people at the quayside - to the embarrassment of the authorities and the crew. What flag was the vessel flying?
4. Why don't the conspirators in Edgar Wallace's "Four Just Men" etc (who are clearly caricatures of Anarchists) get anything like the unsympathetic treatment Anarchists get in similar fiction of the period and genre?
5. Pioneer socialist - and first independent Labour MP Keir Hardie once literally ran away from a Glasgow socialist meeting - and on another occasion from an Anarchist meeting in East London for basically the same reason. What was it? And why did he apologise for the latter occasion, though not for the former?

Answers on Page 11



ROON 'N' ABOUT

"EX-ANARCHIST"?

"Ex-anarchist"? It is usually somewhat irritating to read the term. The morons of the press never know what an anarchist is anyway. When it comes to "ex-anarchist" though, they excel: at best someone who happens to have somehow run foul of the State in their youth!

Pat Gilmour, however, in the Spectator describes Alan Bowness, ('Ex-Anarchist at the Tate') the new director of the Tate Gallery, as a genuine real life ex (pseudo) anarchist. He also told the Standard that "everyone would think him the safe establishment candidate" - but nevertheless felt that "deep inside him, there was something of a radical".

Apparently in his youth, he admitted to Gilmour "as a young man of eighteen, just after the war, he was both anarchist and pacifist". Well, that gives you a clue, he was one of the crew coming in with the war, seeking anarchism as a justification for pacifism (and vice versa), that fouled up the working class anarchist movement. His attitude to art, he said, "was influenced by Herbert Read".

His attitude to anarchism too? Well, Read (certainly unwittingly) justified the respectable arty crafty crew in accepting anarchism. Read was a Jekyll and Hyde. As the anarchist Dr. Jekyll he would write "lucid expositions of libertarian thought", as the establishment Hyde he did mad unbalanced things like "amazing the art world" (says Gilmour, who might have added the anarchists too) in "accepting a knighthood in 1953. Hardly the act of a radical, it is likely, given the opportunity, to be emulated by Bowness. "He says everyone mellows with age". I would hazard a bet he was pretty "mellow" to start with and hasn't changed much.



WHAT WAS IT ALL FOR ?

Mixed feelings are unavoidable over the Rhodesian elections which provided a stunning victory for Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF.

It was yet another shot in the eye for the political pundits, who over Rhodesia have got every prediction wrong at every stage some twenty years now. For the settlers it was a shocking reminder that Africans saw through the orchestrated plastic propaganda served up for the opponents of Mugabe, it was even more shattering for the whites to experience the voice of African nationalism, as here was the stereotype acting quite outside the expectations created by their own leaders. For the British Right the knowledge of organising the stage for Mugabe's victory, whilst pulling out all the stops in order to achieve more amenable ends, must leave a bitterness hard to swallow.

Indeed one can measure Mrs. Thatcher's limited ability when she vividly portrayed her petty nature by not being prepared to utter Mugabe's name in her summary of the election result. Perhaps most satisfying of all is the knowledge that those who had so ineptly attempted to assassinate Robert Mugabe during the election had been totally discredited.

NO CHANGE

And yet even before the dust settles on the victory for Mugabe he is talking of obedience and everything staying the same. No threat to pensions of people who upheld Smith. No danger to those who own private property. What does one say of a winner who turns round and follows the loser? What did you fight for? Why have Africans given their lives in the guerrilla war over fifteen years of desperate and agonising struggle? Why have people been imprisoned, hung, massacred?

And if the result is acceptable for the settlers and to the capitalist interests, why did all the sanctions busting have to take place? Why was Smith supported if the African nationalist challenge was so easily tamed? Just what have the white people been fighting about and dying for?

PANIC

It can be argued that the collapse of the political structure in Zimbabwe could have resulted in panic, the

withdrawal of capital followed by economic disaster; that Mugabe had no alternative but magnanimity - at least in the short run. But that is to use hierarchic models.

NATIONALISM

And this is the glaring weakness of nationalism, whether it be African or Scottish or whatever. It is hierarchic. Mugabe is 'in power' because he had the image for the majority of the African people of a strong, fearless leader who would stand up to the white boss. Here was a man who would really get to grips with land hunger and take steps to end gross inequality.

But no. That is not to be. For those who will be able to free the soil of Zimbabwe are not going to be African nationalists. Such nationalists are everywhere in Africa serving European (East or West) interests rather than their own peoples'. It will certainly be African people in the main who will liberate Rhodesia and give birth to Zimbabwe, but the dawn of that new age did not come with Mugabe's election victory. It can still come however with the realisation amongst the guerrilla fighters that to achieve the wholesale redistribution of property from the elite to the people of Zimbabwe requires direct action not political double talk.

Comrade President - in itself a contradiction in terms - Robert Mugabe is hailing a false dawn for Zimbabwe. It is still Rhodesia and many fine souls have perished in vain.



COLOUR SUPPLEMENT

In the welter of frenzied denunciations came the calm comments of The Observer apparently recommending tourists to the Highlands and Islands to go and watch Black Flag coming out from Sanday "fortnightly" (not yet, not yet).

We don't want to spoil anybody's holiday and must point out that although we use Sanday as an address, Black Flag is produced in London, variously among the back streets of Brixton and the basement of the National Liberal Club - or something like that.... Visitors to the Northern lights must content themselves with seeing the Anarchist Review or the local Orcadian Anarchist "Free Winged Eagle".

The Telegraph page three spread complete with photo of Stuart Christie did us proud, with him running off with all the credit as "the most influential figure in British Anarchist circles" (trans: the only one we know!) They spared us "leader" but "influential" is still a curious word to use. (perhaps the publications 'influence' people within the anarchist movement?) Still, the denunciation was suitably sinister, "the crammed, converted farm out buildings overflow with books, pamphlets and posters, and it is doubtless advantageous to his work that the island has no policeman". (A local bobby would, in a Daily Telegraph ideal society, be able to walk in and confiscate any books, pamphlets and posters not conforming to their principles).

DON'T FORGET THE BLACK FLAG ANARCHO-QUIZ BOOK, the most concise set of questions and answers since the C of E Catechism.

MAOISTS?

Two Gardai (police) were shot in County Roscommon in the Republic of Ireland after a bank raid. The Irish press, as venal and ignorant as the English Press, hammered the Anarchists, the "Evening Herald" leading the war cry. However, those arrested were Maoists. One of them, Colm O'Shea (who was in the Curragh with Anarchists - hence the sinister connection - as if you picked your fellow-prisoners) was in a shoot out with police and taken to the Bridewell in Dublin. He went in OK but afterwards had to go to hospital for injuries received.

It may be that the death penalty will be demanded in this case (not the IRA versus the RUC but the Gardai with a member of the secret police versus people labelled conveniently "anarchists").

Colm O'Shea is a member of the British & Irish Communist Organisation, a Maoist party following an "anti-republican" line (who could easily be called hard line "loyalists" rather than anarchists!)

THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS IS STILL EVIL, VOTE NOBODY

We have no elections in the UK at the moment, but, by coincidence, another piece of graffiti was reported to me, newly inscribed, on the wall of the Ostrich Inn, not too far from Heathrow airport: "If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal."

EVEN THE RANKS OF TUSCANY

Full of anarchist plots and conspiracies is the Daily Telegraph, yet such is the persuasive power of the anarchist ideal, only a couple of days after the "exposure" of "Orkney Anarchist" being investigated by the police, came this piece in the Peterborough London Day by Day column.

Poor "Peterborough" didn't know these were well-used and frequent anarchist slogans in England and America, with slight variations in idiom in other languages all over the world. He only associated anarchism with sinister conspirators, typical of the Fleet Street journalist who never even picks up ideas current among printing workers but prefers to get such scraps of knowledge they possess from the police or a university professor.





ROON'n'ABOUT

PYGMIES

As is especially shown in his correspondence with Engels, Marx was nothing if not a racist in his outlook - the reference to Lassalle as a "Jewish nigger" take some beating, even by the standards of the day. Still, present-day Marxists have to ignore their idol's feet of clay....though they don't always succeed. Some of the phrases beloved by Marx have become enshrined in Lenin and Trotsky and thus standard language for the M.L.ers who overlook their racial connotations. We see advertised in "News Line" a Trotskyist journal called "Labour Review" and among the titles offered for our delectation: "Marx and Political Economy", "Trade unions and the crisis", and so on, "an anti-Trotskyist pygmy". This may refer to a non-Marxist resident of the African Jungle, but we rather suspect that "pygmy" is used offensively in a metaphorical sense to discredit one's political opponents, since pygmy's small stature is presumed to denote low intelligence and lack of morality as well. No pygmy ever descended to the level of even the best of dictators.

SIRIUS MYSTERY

Ever heard of the "Sirius Mystery"? This is "baffling". The star Sirius is totally invisible to the naked eye. It was first discovered in 1862 by an American astronomer and it was not possible to photograph it until 1970. Yet pygmies in the Ituri Forest in Central Africa knew all about it; they have known for years, too, long before Western Science, about Jupiter's satellite moons.

Incredible? Not half so incredible as the explanations. Spacemen in the distant past might have visited them, perhaps coming direct from Sirius itself. Superhuman eyesight is another "suggestion". But the simplest explanation of all - that the knowledge was passed down by their own astronomers, who at one time might have had scientific knowledge the corpus of which has been eroded by time but the folk memory of which remains among the elders of the tribes - has never been considered. Pygmies? Too small, too black!

PRISON INDUSTRY

Is Mathematics Authoritarian?

The Home Office and the Prison Industry will leave no stone unturned in their never ending quest to refine 'Scientific' methods. In addition to the psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers etc. that now fill the more modern prisons to the roof, the prison bureaucracy have been approached by members of even more abstract academic circles. For the last two years Professor Zeeman, a mathematician, working at the University of Warwick has been trying to see if his catastrophe theory, using complex mathematical models, can be used to predict prison riots. The prison authorities seemed interested enough to supply data for the experiment. How this theory became to be applied to prison riots is obscure but from the point of view of the Authorities a workable model of this nature would be extremely useful, at the present time they have no real idea how much violence, boredom, tension, alienation, bad food etc will be tolerated by prisoners before they react in a violent way.

The theory was presented to the Open University programme and because of lack of data, Zeeman made do with a two-dimensional model plotting alienation against tension. (How and in what units alienation and tension were measured is very puzzling, ---can I have half a pound of alienation please?) N.B.

THE CLAUD COCKBURN PRIZE for High Tory Leninism goes to Kenneth Hirst:

'There is a stage in the development of any country, of course, when democracy as we know it is an inappropriate form of regime regime....Countries develop towards democracy after a necessary period of dictatorship. But they do it successfully only if that dictatorship is seen not only to be successful but also benevolent.'

- Typical Marxist - Leninist waffle? Kenneth Hirst is Editor of the pro-Tory Oldham Evening Chronicle.

TURN BACK THE CLOCK!



Sheikh Abdul Aba Elkhail, of Saudi Arabia, is unable to use his new luxury mansion to entertain guests, so he asked Bracknell council for planning permission to convert the garage and stables into a dwelling for "his" women. He could not possibly have the harem in the same house as the male guests.

The planners might have recalled the judgement of a British court when an "owner" asked for the return of "his" runaway slave whom he had brought from America: "the air of England is too pure" for slavery, the slave must go free. The air of England has got a lot polluted since then. The planners consented, and there will be no lack of builders, carpenters and decorators for the conversion of the garage and stables into a harem; had the sheik asked for an execution block it might have cost him a little extra.

THE UNKNOWN DEPORTEE

Mrs Thatcher said recently that the Kensington inscription on the memorial to thousands of Russians deported by Britain at the end of the war to face death in the USSR will "pass no judgement either on the policies of governments or the actions of those who made and carried out such policies". They are not even going to refer to the excuse made by a British officer recently - that it was, after all, a "final solution" (this has been agreed to be a bit evocative of something else).

Could there not be however, a little memorial facing Scotland Yard dedicated to all those deported from this country to face death in Hitler's Germany or Soviet-occupied countries, or to those Spaniards sent back by Mr Attlee to Franco's Spain? There needn't be any "judgement". After all, as Statist policy goes, the British State HEADED the tolerance league.

Italy

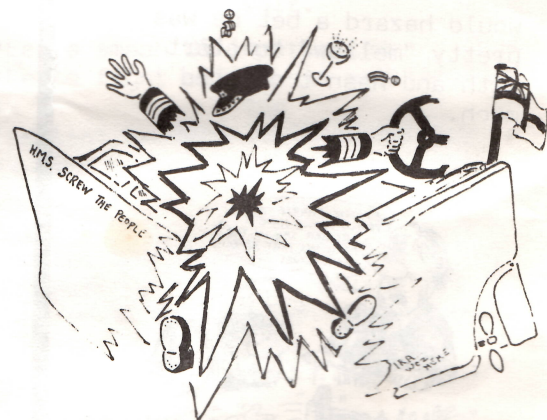
A massive explosion blowing up Bologna train was caused by Fascist "terrorists" - but Signor Cossiga, Italy's Prime Minister for the moment, said "in the fight against terrorism, there should be no distinction between Left or Right".

The attacks by the "Left" - equally and irresponsibly dubbed "terrorist" - consist of attacks on guilty individuals, guilty of atrocities such as the massive attacks on trains. The attacks by the "Right" consist of mass indiscriminate attacks. But there should be no distinction between them?

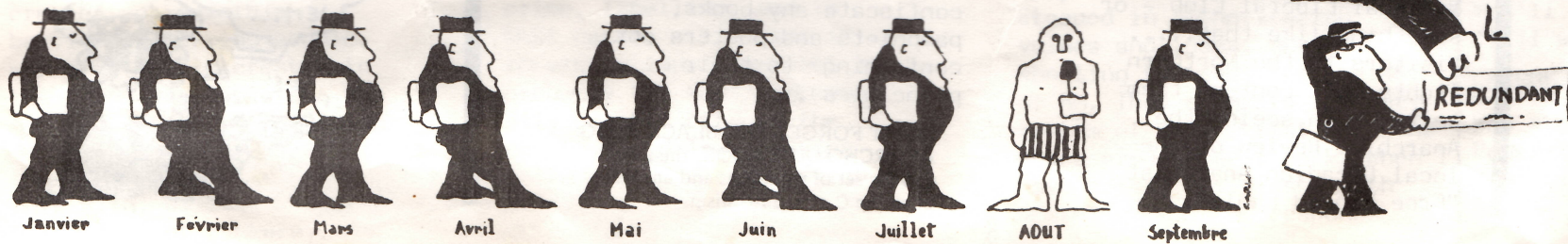
After a previous attack by Fascists on an agricultural bank, an Anarchist was murdered by the police - railwayman Guiseppe Pinelli. His death is still the subject for uproarious laughter by audiences at Wyndham's. It is proved up to the hilt the attack was by Fascists - but Valpreda is still not free from involvement despite his being cleared time and again. The Fascists known to have been involved in the case have been proved to be guilty. But there should be no distinction?

It was alleged (as it turned out, apparently falsely) that there was an English connection - that one of the guilty Fascists who had bombed the train had been in London. And he stayed in Victoria - almost opposite the Fascists "European" bookshop. But there were no raids on Fascists; no press campaign; no imprisonments; no dawn visits; the sound of smashing doors did not herald a visit of the SPG, ATS or Special Branch. Had there been an allegation about Anarchists...but there has to be some distinction!

INCIDENTAL DEATH OF A STATIST



ANOTHER IRISH JOKE!
"Uproariously funny"
..... Daily Telegraph



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GREECE

Following the movement of resistance which has arisen in Greece's prisons, especially in the Corydalos prison in Piraeus in recent times and the wake of the harsh repression by warders in reply to this, one prisoner THYMIS DIAMANTOPOULOS (24) has died. Savagely tortured by the prison warders on the island of Egine, he slashed his wrists with a splinter of glass. He died of his wounds, having been abandoned to his fate by the warders.

Egine's prison establishment lies only 20 metres from the beach where foreign tourists serenely sunbathe. The facade of the prison has the same bright decor as the island's other tourist centres.

Other prisoners have been driven to suicide or brazenly done to death by the warders of the prisons of "democratic" Greece. Among them are:

1. THESALONIKIOS shot by warders in Corydalos. He was a criminal prisoner who posed a threat to the prison regime as a result of his having been politicized in prison through contact with political detainees.
2. BASILE GIKAS (42) committed suicide in Corydalos on 6 December 1979.
3. On 5 January 1980, 6 young men, unable to bear the torture and the living conditions any longer, died in a suicide pact in Egine prison by drinking poison.
4. APOSTOLOS KATSOURAS (19), a native of the island of Icaria killed himself on 20 January in Corydalos.
5. GIANORIS (34) took his own life on 22 March in the psychiatric hospital in Corydalos.

Meanwhile the hunger strike continues in Corydalos prison. taking part are:

1. Filippos Kyritsis who is calling for an end to torture in the neo-democratic prisons of Karamanlis, plus changes in the conditions of detention, the instant release of his wife Sophie on medical grounds (she has been subjected to uncalled -for psychiatric treatment at the hands of the psychiatrist / torturer Malatos).

2. Sophie Kyritsis, in protest at the conditions in which all the prisoners (political and non-political) are held, and in protest at the use of torture.

3. Skandalis (far left Marxist activist) in protest at conditions in prison and at the repressiveness of Greek prisons.

He is also protesting his innocence of charges of being a terrorist; charges on which he was sentenced (without the least evidence) to 5 years in prison.

4. Mpouketsides, who insists that he be released and insists upon his innocence. He too is alleged to have been a terrorist. The only evidence the police offer against him is the wick of an oil lamp discovered in his home. His mother has charged police with having stolen the wick in the course of a search of her home.

As a result of their hunger strike both Mpouketsides & Kyritsis have been transferred to the hospital.

The Athens Anarcho-Syndicalist Group, along with other Greek libertarian groups and individuals will be organising a meeting in solidarity with the prisoners and to protest at the repression of workers generally in Greece, towards the end of September, in a centrally situated square in Athens.

france

DIRECT ACTION

Police in Tours claim to have smashed a local section of Action Directe. This follows autonomist activities, the blowing up of a wing of the Palace of Justice and the attempted arson of 2 churches on the occasion of the papal visit. About a dozen local anarchists have been arrested. At least one is a member of the OCL. Police are looking for a 20 year old sociology student Patrick Albaret who is believed to



have been trying to flee to Mexico when arrested. Albaret has stated that 20 kilos of explosives were used against the Palace of Justice and not (as police claimed) 5. He has also admitted thefts from the university and attempted arson at the Faculty of Sciences.

cuba

TO THE PEOPLE OF CUBA!
TO THE WORKERS OF CUBA!
AND TO ALL FELLOW REVOLUTIONARIES!

This is not just yet another battle against the dictatorship: no, this is the last, the definite battle to secure the liberty of the Cuban people.

We will not summon our countrymen to arms, for arms we have not: but we do summon them to a bold and selfless struggle for our common cause.

CUBANS: Go, this very minute, and occupy every embassy and consulate in Havana and throughout the length and breadth of the Republic....those belonging to democratic nations in search of asylum and those of totalitarian ones (be they fascist or communist, it is all one): seize their buildings and regard diplomatic staff as your prisoners. In exchange for their release, insist upon the overthrow of the odious communist dictatorship.

CUBANS: Occupy all churches, temples of every religion and in these houses of God demand the medieval right of sanctuary for we Cubans, all of us, down to the regime's own civil servants are the victims of persecution.

CUBANS: Fear not that Cuba might become another Berlin, another Warsaw, a new Budapest or another Prague: in Cuba the Soviet troops cannot massacre the whole population for the democrats in the Americas would do all to prevent it. But hear this, should the Washington government default upon its duty and fail to help Cuba to free herself of dictatorship, then we, consistent with our revolutionary principles would demand of the leader of the 'Free World' and the nation which proclaims itself the champion of democracy that they do their duty and prevent the massacre of the Cuban people in the course of their libertarian struggle.

CUBANS: THE TIME FOR WORD IS PASSED. THIS IS THE TIME FOR DEEDS. IN A HUMAN STRUGGLE FOR OUR LIBERTY.

CUBAN LIBERTARIAN MOVEMENT

Miami, 7 April 1980.

Continued from Front Page.

AIMS OF THE COUP

Aside from the fact that the coup is part of an overall plan in which the preponderant role is played by all the dictatorships of the Cono Sur (in this instance, most specifically Argentina), there can be no question but that the aim is to destroy the Bolivian labour movement headed by the COB (Bolivian Labour Congress) whose class and revolutionary fighting spirit has been and is viewed as a permanent threat to the power factions of the Bolivian oligarchy.

The COB, (founded 17 April 1952) embraces in a single group urban workers, miners and farm workers. And although every leftwing and revolutionary outlook is represented within it, the COB has been able jealously to guard its political and trade union autonomy and constantly reiterated its intention of transforming society.

In recent times, given the flaws and grave irresponsibility of sectors of the political left, unable to present any viable alternative to the 'democratic process' already underway, the COB has become the only organisation truly representative of popular aspirations.



For this reason the coup has been aimed from its outset against the COB and its militants.

OUR POSITION:

Immediately news was received of the military coup, we of the CLLA contacted a member of the External Committee of the COB, who was touring Europe to convey our readiness to lend all assistance to the struggle of the Bolivian people.

Convinced of the importance of that struggle, we invite all libertarian comrades and kindred organisations to join with us in this solidarity campaign to obtain the release of all persons detained by the rebel military and especially of COB militants among them our colleague Liber Forti, a founder member.

SOUTH AMERICAS

ARGENTINA

JORGE LUIS BORGES ABANDONS THE ARGENTINIAN JUNTA.

Argentinian author Jorge Luis Borges has at last detected an "ethical problem" in continuing to support the Junta in his country. The man who once described the junta that seized power in 1976 as "a government of gentlemen" has now (some 20,000 disappearances later) come around to the view that ends do not justify means. Perhaps worried about the Borges reputation, he now wishes it known that he "cannot countenance" the various methods the gentlemen of the Junta employ. Borges now speaks of ethics. Pity he did not inquire into the ethics of applauding the Junta's efforts to suppress his countrymen. But then Borges is rabidly anti-Peronist and anti-communist and his beloved gentlemen were but acting upon his own beliefs. And this is the man who for years has been contemptuously dismissing other writers' criticisms of the Junta as "politically motivated". Whereas his support was of course perfectly ethical!

brazil

BRAZIL DEATH SQUAD

Up to 3 June 1980 the Death Squad had claimed 248 murders; 7 in a single day in a single suburb of Rio de Janeiro. One of the most terrifying aspects of their activity is that whilst everyone knows they are policemen settling scores they were believed to have been invulnerable. Until recently. And the person responsible for this change....a most unlikely candidate in a white dominated, machismo conscious society. She is Marli, a black maid and mother of 4 from one of Rio's shanty towns. In October 1979 she saw her 18 year old brother Paulo Pereira Soares Filho shot 13 times by men she knew to be police. Swearing vengeance she approached the 20th Regiment of the Military Police demanding a line up so that she could pick out the guilty ones. She was denigrated as a 'whore' and told that 4 people had already 'confessed'. She persisted and a sympathetic magistrate backed her up. The 805 men of No. 20 Regiment fled past her. She picked out the guilty men. Now the Squad has lost something of the mystique that claimed it was invulnerable. ..."the law acting outside the law". Even though its murders go on, it can never be quite the same again.

NICARAGUA

Jorge L., a Costa Rican anarchist who recently toured Nicaragua speaks (in A. Rivista Anarchica, June-July '80) of growing Sandinist bureaucratic action, via the Sandinist Defence Committees and of strikes and factory occupations. Objections to increased production demands are "anti Sandinist" and "CIA-inspired", say the FLN. The National Guard has been replaced by a Sandinist Police. The FSLN, in addition to Somozist guerrillas has to face the resistance of the MILPAS (Anti-Somozist People's Militias), Maoists who once fought alongside the FSLN.

Also the paper El Pueblo has been shut down by the FSLN, and its editor Melvin Wallace and another jailed. Imprisonment has also been the fate of numbers of the Maoist Workers' Front and the Trots of the Revolutionary Marxists League who have been critical of FSLN collaboration with the middle classes.

In the face of growing disillusionment and economic problems the Indians of the Monimbo area have begun an armed resistance with sticks, machetes, hunting pieces and make-shift weapons.

Military forces in El Salvador, trying to get control of a rebellion in the country, examined people in the capital, San Salvador, asking for identity cards and searching for arms. People without identity cards are said to be shot.

P.L.O. & W. GERMANY

The Palestinian Liberation Organisation is collaborating with the West German police in the "anti-terrorist struggle", states the German daily "Die Welt", confirmed by several other papers, and thus reiterating a fact of life long stated by "Black Flag".

"The arrest of five German 'terrorists' in a Paris hotel would not have been possible without the co-operation between the PLO in Beirut and the Federal German Criminal Brigade," it was stated, adding that, without the aid of the PLO "but with the help of an Arab country", it was possible to arrest Susanne Albrecht, accused of killing the German banker Juergen Ponto.

Those who advocate co-operating with the "Third world struggle and glorifying nationalist revolutions have admitted nationalists, and particularly Arab nationalist-ists into their confidence - apparently without the slightest realisation of the plain fact that every nationalism centres around a Government, every Govt. has police, all police co-operate. They feel insulted at the idea that they are delivering themselves and revolutionary struggles into the hands of

CHINA

Authorities are sending thousands of people to rural labour camps in China, re-viving the detention system used by Mao to silence critics in the 1950s, reports the N.Y. Herald-Tribune. "Chinese sources say the Peking police so far this year have sent more than 5,000 young people to re-education through labour camps for offences as minor as loitering or being jobless".

This coincides with the "drive against Anarchism" in which the Chinese media constantly attack "anarchism and hooliganism" which is equated with industrial action, challenging of the authorities and even unemployment (there is plenty of semi-slave labour available).

Page 1 of the People's Daily spells out that those sent to the camps - without benefit of court hearing - are "people with no decent occupation who behave like hooligans, counter-revolutionaries not subject to criminal prosecution" and people "who jeopardize public affairs".

Hundreds of thousands went to the camps under Mao. Now there is a huge drive by the post-Mao government, which is blaming all the failures of State Communism on to the "Gang of Four" - a sly way of attacking Mao himself, whose godhead, though dented, is still potent.

Can there have been a greater fraud upon the workers than modern Leninism?

the police and utter stirring Che Guevarist statements about the struggle of the third world being ours etc.

When Arabs are arrested for armed attacks in London and elsewhere, their instincts are to seek the co-operation of the police, thinking that they will have sympathy. They are often members of military organisations, and have the same outlook, the same aspirations, only forced into seeming rebellion because they are fighting an undeclared national war. They have no conceivable connection with social revolution. All come from a middle-class elite, all subscribe to a militaristic mentality that makes them counterparts - even when military necessity makes them enemies - of the

police and military elsewhere, even in Israel.

The collaboration of the PLO with Bonn is aimed at getting political concessions out of West Berlin. But the Israelis are past masters at this art. They too have one of the most polished police and military intelligence systems in the world, rivalling the Russians and Americans. They have penetrated the Arab nationalist organisations themselves and not only turned them over to their own or rival

WOMEN IN IRAN & SPAIN

News of violent attacks on women for political reasons comes from two different but alike sources. In Iran, Moslem rule had led to hatred of women. The imposition of old-style dress - called the chador but in reality a hood of shame - is followed by different ayatollahs stating that women will no longer be able to dress

"immodestly", that they face physical violence if they go about freely and dress as they wish. The sexual-psychopathic rule of Khomeini has brought about a counter-revolution in social behaviour unparalleled in its barbarism, and Arab oil and Islamic fanaticism prevents the world from speaking up. Every mad mullah thinks he can give his views on sexual repression, exhort men to button up their shirts so as not to "tempt" women, and lay down rules for female behaviour as if he were dealing with diseased cattle.

In Spain the same attitude prevails among the neo-Nazi right wing. The Falange now feels itself an oppressed minority, being unable to murder and imprison its opponents with the aid of the army and police. The fascist secret societies (with the aid of the police in mufti) therefore concentrate on acts of street bullying and violence to build up their strength once more. But they are a little more prudent than the National Front. Not for them provocations to Blacks able to take care of themselves - though in classic fascist style it always has to be at least twenty to one (and with police protection) before they do anything. They pick on attractive females walking alone, "insulting" Spanish manhood by their independence and style of dress. They will crowd round and beat the offending girl up, or make her shout slogans in support of Family and State. A mild form of rape - which has sometimes led to actual rape - in which the woman is powerless to appeal to the police ('why were you walking alone?') and press coverage is scathing of the victim.

But is there no response from the girls' friends never any retaliatory action by motivated libertarians? There is. But in this case you read about "terrorist attacks upon civilians and police".

authorities, but set them fighting against each other. The rivalry between them, to gain information which they can sell for political concessions, is likely to escalate. It will be a grim lookout for anyone who has been fool enough, in the belief that they are dealing with natural allies, to work with nationalist organisations.

usa



LORENZO
KOMBOA
ERVIN

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, a prisoner at the Marion (Illinois) Federal Penitentiary, has filed a \$15.5 million dollar lawsuit in federal court in Brooklyn, N.Y., (*Ervin v. Lanier*, E. Dist. N.Y. No. 74-c-1681), against named officials of the CIA, FBI, State Department Intelligence (I.N.R.), the Defence Intelligence Agency (D.I.A.), the Secretaries of State and Army, and others, for conspiring and depriving him of his civil and constitutional rights of having American agents kidnap him from East Berlin, Germany into the American sector of West Berlin, torture, drug, and illegally hold him prisoner at the American consulate in West Berlin, and illegally and forcibly return him to the U.S.A. where he was deprived of a fair trial in airplane hijacking charges then pending against him in Atlanta, Georgia. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1969 hijacking from Atlanta to Cuba.

Komboas hopes that by using this suit he might Publicly expose other criminal actions by U.S. agents abroad who routinely kidnap, murder, torture, and secretly return to the U.S. for trial, numerous political and criminal fugitive suspects abroad.

The Government has not denied the charges, but had sought to convince the court that none of the named Defendants in the suit currently work for the U.S. Government, and have "retired" or have deceased; this maneuver failed, however, when the court held that they were still responsible for any crimes they might have committed while Government employees.



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Prison System

U. S. Penitentiary

March 3, 1980

Leavenworth, KS 66048

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin

18759-175



"Do you subscribe to Black Flag"

We wish to advise you that the publication sent, because of its contents, would not be in the best interest of the security, X good order, or discipline of this institution. Consequently, your publication is being returned and will not be allowed for the reasons listed below. We request you discontinue further mailing of the publication to this institution.

This publication was rejected because it advocates a worldwide Anarchist rebellion and a overthrow of the State. This view within a prison setting can disrupt the security and orderly running of the institution.

G. C. Wilkinson
G. C. WILKINSON
Warden

IN VIEW of FBI allegations of Communist infiltration into all branches of the U.S. Administration it is significant that the Warden of Leavenworth Prison bans BLACK FLAG BECAUSE OF ITS ADVOCATION OF A WORLD-WIDE ANARCHIST REBELLION. Why does this Warden Wilkinson fear an Anarchist rebellion in the slave camps of Russia or China? Is he some sorta commie, then?

AZIONE RIVOLUZIONARIA

Azione Rivoluzionaria has dissolved and joined the Prima Linea group calling for a single united and centrally directed armed struggle group.

"IN 1979 2,500 TERRORIST attacks, by 140 groups has led to police pursuing 41 sons, daughters and relatives of LEADING FAMILIES in ITALY today." BBC WORLD SERVICE JULY 1980

Says Alan Copps in the Daily Telegraph (18.8.80) - speaking of Italy, on the leader page:

It must be admitted that there is some substance to complaints that the security forces are less energetic in the pursuit of Rightists who practice indiscriminate terror than they are in pursuit of the Leftists who select symbolic targets for assassination.

That goes for Britain too, on a proportionate scale.

ANGOLA

BRITISH MERCENARIES MAY BE RELEASED

(exclusive to Black Flag)

The seven British mercenaries held in Angola could be released, we are reliably informed by a correspondent. They were sentenced to terms of up to thirty years for their part in right-wing backed invasion of Angola, led astray by financial considerations and manipulated by right-wing politicians. The families are naturally desperately concerned about them and have constantly complained that the British Embassy in Luanda does not send them sufficient information.

This news will therefore come as a total surprise to them.

The Angolan authorities would consider releasing the men if they expressed their regret and repentance (which it is probable they would do; in their trial they all claimed to have been in it solely for the money) and if similar releases were made by the British.

There is, of course, an obvious snag. The British have nobody comparable to release whom the Angolan authorities might consider to be a reasonable exchange. But their American allies do have. If the families of the mercenaries want their relatives out, they need to persuade the Foreign Office to act - for the exchange could be done. It is only a question of persuading Washington, whom the Angolan government is inclined to blame for the adventure anyway.

There are several obvious candidates in the U.S.A. for release. First among them is Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, probably the last to be held as a "war criminal" for the Vietnam war - a sick joke when one recalls the crimes (as seen, topically, by people who have seen the film "Apocalypse Now")....of all those barbaric crimes, the one remaining "war criminal" is someone who protested against the war! There are several black prisoners in the U.S.A. who are serving sentences for political "crimes", whom the Angola Government wants the prestige of having gained their release from "a relentless and racist oppressor." Cannot the Americans bear to release them - in order to help out the British mercenaries at least? The quality of mercy is not strained. Competition in acts of mercy is no bad thing. They could offer twenty or forty prisoners their freedom, in exchange for an act of clemency by Luanda. But they only need to offer seven. If the American authorities are prepared to act on this, we believe the Angolese will act expeditiously. It is understood that Lord Brockway will be acceptable as an intermediary by the Angolese administration.

SPAIN

ANARCHIST ARCHIVES

The problem about the return of the CNT archives from Amsterdam still continues. Huge deposits of the files and records were made after the civil war, deposited with the social historical archives in Amsterdam - which has the "Bakunin archives" and a vast array of historical material about the libertarian movement. It was hoped that this, being under the protection of the Dutch government, would preserve the material from the Nazis. This seems to have been the case, but now they can't get them back again and the cases remain unopened for over forty years.

Scholars are itching to get their hands on them, but the Dutch library authorities seem to be insisting on the same signatures asking for the release of the documents as handed them in for safe keeping; and most of the people concerned have died off. Moreover, the matter seems to have become tied up with the demand that the Spanish government returns the property of the CNT (e.g. huge printing presses, daily newspapers, halls, etc - even if one omits collectivised industry confiscated by Franco), which the government is resisting (though it has returned the property of the UGT, again excepting collectivised industry).

The matter hasn't been helped, of course, by the split, and that two organisations claim now to be the authentic CNT.

Meanwhile a centre of historical-social documents has been established in Barcelona. It is a vast complex (a former school) which needs considerable refurbishment, now taking place, but which has very little material (it all went under the years of fascism). They are seeking historical material from all over the world and particularly short of material in English.

Anarchist, syndicalist and wobbly material would be very welcome, especially bound volumes or old documentation. It is not yet open to the public but will be by next year. Address: Centro de documentacion historico-social Ateneo enciclopedia popular, at Montalegre 5, Barcelona 1 apdo. 22212. (Catalonia, Spain).





in @rkney

Saturday August 9th. was a beautiful summer's day and perfect for Cienfuegos Press' and Free-Winged Eagle's Anarchist Bookstall at the Orkney Agricultural Society's Annual County Show. This event is the major day in Orkney's calendar, dating back to the old Lammas Fairs and matriarchal fire festivals held in Pagan times.

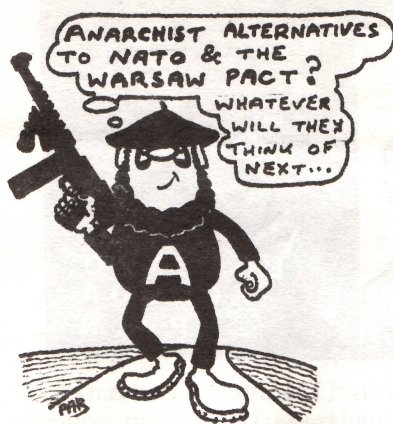
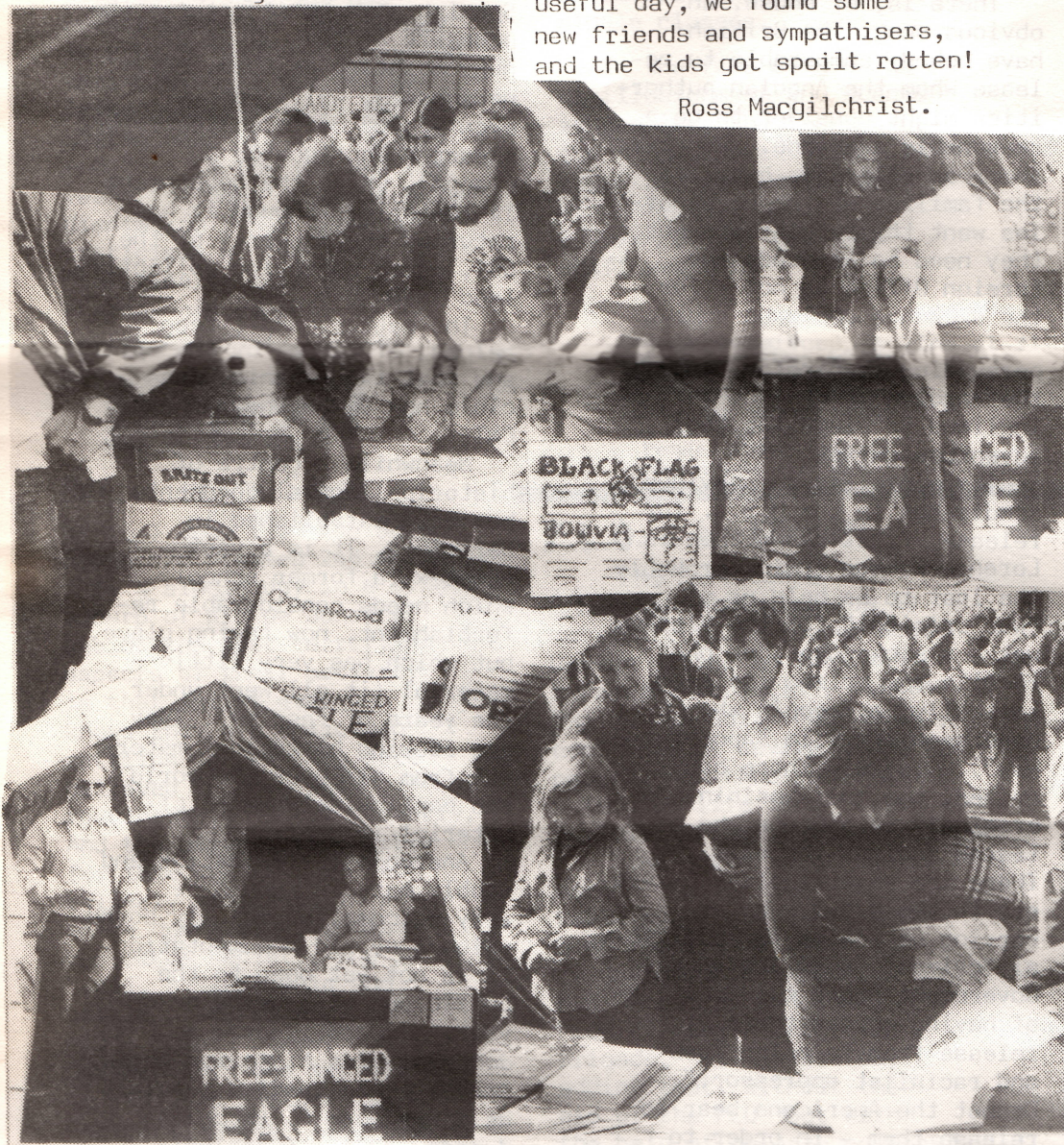
The day went very well, both groups involved making just about enough to cover their costs. We were delighted at the numbers of children who were having a good laugh at our anti-Thatcher posters, and the many teenagers enthusing over our selection of anarchic badges and Cr@ss records. One apprentice housepainter spent nearly £25 on books, records and badges - surely nearly a whole week's wages! Lots of

older members of the community were also interested in our books and magazines, but many could only walk away shaking their heads in utter disbelief. We had a series of free leaflets printed but these were not too successful. Some people appreciated them, but I think the majority objected to having "catchpenny leaflets thrust under their very noses".

By the highly devious means of asking them straight out, we were able to borrow a large tent from the Territorial Army. (I think they thought we were a charity like Oxfam). This we put to very social use by using it to house a Friends of Cienfuegos cheese and wine party. (Building the new society inside the frame of the old, eh?)

All in all, it was a very useful day, we found some new friends and sympathisers, and the kids got spoilt rotten!

Ross Macgilchrist.



"Those who advise you to be silent to your friends mean to betray you without witnesses..."

The truth of this saying was never more clearly expressed than in the hue and cry over TOWARDS A CITIZENS MILITIA [The latest Cienfuegos Press work, £1.25]. There is nothing remarkable in the book except that it takes seriously the possibility of people defending themselves against aggression and outlines methods of resistance.

Indeed, one might ingenuously think that it would accord with current Tory monetarist thinking, in dispensing with the need for an expensive Government-controlled Army and showing how one can, without cost to the generality "do it yourself". That thinking's all right for Education or Health, not for the sacred cow of Defence!

In a review, THE LEVELLER missed the point completely in saying the book was "nothing more" than a Home Guard book. The sudden collapse of the State organised Armies in the Second World War meant that the Government had to fall back on the people, in event of defeat: it set about creating a Home Guard based on the principles of revolutionary and popular struggle, modelling itself on the Spanish militia before it was militarised. In France, a similar Resistance movement was set up spontaneously, after the event of invasion had occurred. The Allied Governments set about the easy task so far as France was concerned (in the circumstances) of seeing that they could then control these movements and that they did not get out of hand. To describe a book such as this, therefore as if it were merely calling for a Home Guard, is putting the cart before the horse.

STRANGE CONFUSION

In a predictably pacifistic review (with the inevitable disclaimer that it wasn't the "place for a violence versus non-violence debate" FREEDOM denounces the book as "a strange confusion" and shows the depth of its knowledge of the Anarchist resistance since the WW2 in saying that "the International Revolutionary Solidarity Movement - First of May Group" sounds "Trotskyite". (Trotsky's role in revolutionary solidarity, in the Chicago movement, and in libertarian post-war struggles are well known to Freedomite pacifists, who are experts on strange confusion). It concludes by citing a heavy anti-gay joke in Kurt Saxon's book (not under review but strangely confused): an even heavier anti-gay joke may incidentally be found in Tolstoy's RESURRECTION. Nothing is said of the barrage of press attacks that are patently against Anarchism as such; and if FREEDOM is really intended to be read by anarchists these might be commented on, or even rebutted. What upsets the enemy can't be that bad.

TORY MP

Is the material original and exciting? Maybe so from the reaction of the Tory Members of Parliament and their disreputable Labour colleagues; though one critic sniffed to me he could find everything in it in the Swiss HOME GUARD manual. Less well read than he and admiring the omniscience of one who could offer photocopies of it for me at the drop of a hat, it seemed to me to be a useful introduction to what will have to be done sooner than we think. The honourable Members' reaction proves it: THEY DO NOT WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW HOW TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. They do not say that resistance will never be necessary. What, they shriek to the heavens, that is CRIMINAL OF ITSELF.

They dare not say that there will never be military aggression from outside or within. What they do say is that opposition to such aggression is CRIMINAL OF ITSELF.

They do not necessarily rule out opposition to such aggression provided it is done in such a way that it is legal, and approved of by them; under their control and glorify their own interests. But in the event of such aggression being successful, and therefore legalised by itself, it follows as the night does the day to them that resistance must be illegal of itself. There they are right, of course. But they betray clearly where they intend to be when the calamity comes for the rest of us - still the Vicars of Bray, not to use a more apposite term, Quislings.

As Stuart Christie remarked on TV, a good topical example is the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, but it could be a cabal of Right Wing Officers. It happened in Chile it could happen here.

A.M.

Oh brother! Union clashes over 'anarchist' magazine

LAMBETH COUNCIL workers are "doing the Lambeth crawl" according to a magazine brought out by a group of town hall employees.

The newsletter was planned as a bulletin for the NALGO Action Group, a left-wing campaigning organisation inside the town hall white collar workers' union.

But NAG members refused to print it because they said it was too cynical.

too full of bad language and would discourage workers from organising as trade unionists.

The three editors then decided to print it themselves.

The magazine, which has no name, is devoted to attacks on social workers, trade unions, left-wing organisations, council leader Ted Knight and the South London Press.

Articles offer ways of relieving boredom at work by putting super-glue on porno-

graphic magazines or starting the next world war, and a suggested "boredom weighting" is proposed for pay scales.

Vulgar

New words to the "Lambeth Walk" advise. "If you want to make your pile, Grab an office and a file. You know they're all Doing the Lambeth crawl-Yuck."

The magazine was welcomed by the council's opposition leader Robin Pitt, whose only reservation

was about the vulgar language.

"I was quite taken aback but in general it seems quite healthy. It seems apolitical and obviously meets a need, for the simple reason that people are faced with extremism in the trade union movement and on the council. Sooner or later there has to be a reaction, and I think this expresses that reactionary viewpoint," he said.

Dangerous

Labour Council leader

Ted Knight, more used to attacks from Right-wing organisations, commented, "It takes an anti-trade union stand which is rather dangerous. Anarchists have always been known to be on the right in the end."

Jackie Lewis, editor of the NALGO branch magazine "The Lamb" which is attacked as "boring" in the new magazine, commented, "This is a waste of their obvious talent. They could have got their ideas across much more effectively."

36 SOUTH LONDON PRESS, Friday, August 15, 1980



Dear Comrades,

Not wishing to make too much of it, in view of the seriousness of the situation as then, regarding Jean Weir, but "a young British girl (34)?"

G.T.

(Note: Agreed - this was taken from a newspaper report and should have been altered; in the same issue of that newspaper relating to another case was an 'elderly father of 53')

I Must protest at the anti-police bias on World in Action (June 2). It sounded like a party political broadcast for the Anarchist Party.

LETTER TO TV TIMES
JULY 5-11.

Dear Black Flag,

As a result of the direct action taken against the nuclear program at Sharpness on July 5th, 7 people spent several days in prison and were later fined a total of £2560.

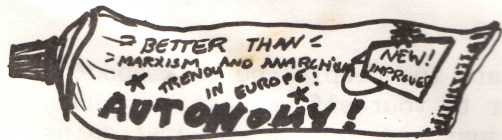
The authorities hoped by putting us in prison to achieve two things:-

1. stop us taking further action
2. to intimidate other groups and therefore stop them taking any direct action against the gem.

It seems as though they succeeded there was only S. London's Blockade of the A.E.A's office in the Haymarket in which 5 people were arrested - as for the rest of the country, apparently it slept.

Direct action as a definite possibility should not be overlooked. Groups should start training NOW so that next time they will be ready to respond. The days of the low profile (as far as nuclear power is concerned) are over.

To avoid going to prison again we need to raise £2560 within the next 3 months. Badges, posters and a film we made of the event from beginning to end, will soon be available. Please support us. Send donations to: Sharpness Defence Fund, The Tables, Butterow Hill, STROUD. Solidarity, Kevin



Dear Flag,

Just a few disagreements on the article about "The Anarchist Connection" in Espiritu Santo which appeared in the last edition of Black Flag.

For the Phoenix Foundation to claim that anarchism is compatible with private property rights is ok up to a point - I like to own my own furniture, household goods etc. But if I can steal, cheat or connive yours away from you, does this also then make them mine?

It is also said that the Americans want it for a tax haven. The writer describes this as "a small price to pay for a haven from government". I do not think so. A tax haven for capitalists to operate from while they steal labour from people all over the world?

He then goes on to say that suspicion of this foundation in circumstances such as this isn't justified. Let him, then, ask himself where the money came from for a RADIO STATION and Transport PLANES!

The very fact that an organisation based in Holland has a stake in this dispute - to the tune of thousands of dollars by the sounds of it - makes me very suspicious indeed.

Yours P.D. Bartholemew.

VIEW POINT

I am writing this letter out of complete desperation and frustration. For most of my life I've been involved in some way with politics, I've been through just about every political ideology that can be imagined, and I'm no nearer reaching any conclusions than when I started.

For a brief period I was a member of the Tory Party, but six months of elitism and social bigotry soon secured my removal from that bastion of the middle class prejudice.

Next I found myself going along to Young Socialist meetings. The YS opposed all the beliefs of the Tories and 'Capitalism', but instead substituted for them their own repressive and divisive beliefs. The hours that I subjected myself to all that verbal bullshit of the 'Socialist Programme' and the constant harping back to 'Nationalisation of the 200 leading monopolies'...GOD!.... are these people robots or Human Beings???

After this I actually joined a political Party: the Liberal Party. I even became Secretary of the local Young Liberal branch. For a

while I really did believe that I'd found my cause ...BUT... it was not too be. Soon I realised that I was surrounded with yet another bunch of carrerists and armchair radicals.

Then, after all these came Anarchism...surely here at last I found something to believe in, something free of bullshit, something interested in one simple thing: freedom. BUT I can't say that, simply because it just isn't true. Anarchists in Britain seem to take any opportunity they can to argue and disagree, to form new factions and new groups. A few weeks ago I received a letter from the Anarchist Communist Association, the letter was out to discredit all other Anarcho groups and put itself forth as the true exponent of libertarian theory. This was totally sickening.... Why can't they join up with the Direct Action Movement? AND why can't DAM join up with other Anarcho-Syndicalists, for fuck's sake you've got few enough members as it is without all this peurile feuding! Why can't Black Flag and Freedom work together more? You're all SUPPOSED to believe in the same things, so why all this farting around?

With the 'LEFT' in this country in such a stagnant state the time should be ripe for anarchists to take the initiative, but it seems precious little is actually being achieved. We've got one of the most reactionary Governments of the century, lots of

people are looking for an alternative, so lets see them being offered a libertarian alternative. It would be a start if such such papers as Xtra! Black Flag or Freedom started producing some leaflets or posters, whether they like it or not they are the focal point for the anarchist movement (if you can call it that!)..... At least the Ecology Party can offer a programme (not a million miles from anarchism) that is backed up by organisation, a programme that is based on massive decentralisation, which is radical without being divisive.

CHRIS of WORTHING
& INSIDE VIEW. Amen.

REPLY: This sums up the position of those who mistakenly think there is "AN ANARCHIST MOVEMENT", consisting of whoever chooses to think of the themselves as anarchists irrespective of their beliefs. If one took, as the media sometimes does, the word "ANARCHIST" to imply everyone who happens to be against the State - and therefore range from (actual examples)

Tariq Ali to the Italian Fascista! - for sure the anarchist movement is a mixed bunch! Our correspondent does not go so far. But whiskey mixed with water at some point ceases to be whiskey and given a jugful of water and a thimblefull of whiskey, anyone can argue that it is tasteless, colourless and non-alcoholic.

In fact, Anarchists in Britain do not seriously disagree or form rival groups. But what is an Anarchist? The media has at least a notion of what it is inveighing against when it says Anarchist (or at any rate "self-confessed anarchist"). A person who, like a leading contributor to Freedom, says he votes Labour, and that 'anarchists' who do not are 'middle class' is only a Labourite in very little anarchist clothing - argue how you may.

The Direct Action Movement HAS joined up with other Anarcho-syndicalists; but if there are some not in it, I am sure they would be pleased to have them. Contrary to the view held in the writer to VIEWPOINT last issue the more organisations the more possibility of action. It is not by reciting magic formulae of 'spontaneous' organisations that they will come into being; but by trying to build them. DAM is at least a start.

So far as Black Flag and Freedom are concerned, some of us in the former spent years in what we later realised with so many others was a cul de sac, and parted company for good after the pacifists had gained such a stronghold that the paper actually suggested getting up a collection for a policeman allegedly injured in a demonstration. Whenever there is a major breakthrough in the media for Anarchism, it disturbs the equilibrium of those who now run Freedom - even at a distance. Not that they are pacifists, they merely 'disapprove of violence' and 'want to preserve standards' (and we don't want a witch hunt against pacifists, do we?) So we always find them denouncing others as 'violent', not out of sectarianism but out of caution, and even

publish (as in the last issue we have) a letter on these lines from the disreputable stooge who calls himself 'Devon Libertarians' when unable to write attacks (usually on Freedom itself) on behalf of, without consent, the small group called A.C.A.

Continued Page 12

MERSEYSIDE LETTER

Dear Black Flag,

This letter/article is to offer congratulations on producing a paper that keeps a balanced and sensible dialogue on anarchist ideas and action. I feel this is essential in a time when there is so much distortion, and paper tiger radicalism, passed off as having a libertarian or anarchist basis. The women's movement and the gay liberation have made essential contributions to the expansion of anarchist thought, but they have also sidetracked away anarchism as it related to the powerlessness of the working class, and as a critique of authoritarian social structure. Maybe this is because so much of the membership of gay/men's/women's groups are middleclass and reflect its elitism, but there has been a move away from central anarchist concerns to personal therapies, and urban ingroups that in essence are exclusive middleclass mutual admiration societies. What is such a bad joke is that these kind of radical groupings are supposed to be against elitist politics ("the personal is political") ... and yet in terms of their own lifestyle, clonelike conformity, and hardline rejection of any criticism that threatens their anarchadogma, they present the very features of the authoritarian society they are committed to overthrow? Do all radical subcultures become victims of the alienation they are out to destroy? So much of the libertarian left in this country has become a radical ingrowing toenail, and the preserve of the anarchabourgeois, who have no real concern to make links between some of the real resources they have, and the working class community.

Liverpool is a prime example of this radical ghettoland. On a Sunday night you can attend Liberty Hall, wearing your uniform of short hair, ear ring and overalls (nicely tailored that never get grease on) eat your wholefood, and listen to a variety of themes of mens/womens/gay liberation, which is fine providing you don't attempt any serious criticism, because you will be hissed, or ostracised into silence for not buttressing the prejudices of radical cloneland. Again News From Nowhere bookshop, provides an excellent range of anarchist/socialist literature, and yet when you go in the heavy, self righteous, clique like atmosphere, creates an invisible barrier to working people, who might be interested in the ideas available but who are put off by the division of us and them, many of the working class kids I work with, dismiss it as being full of wankers, and

in many ways I think they are right. If this criticism of the radical alternative (what alternative?) left seems harsh, it is because I care about its role to communicate its ideas to working people who will make revolutionary change a reality. Certainly the libertarian left needs its mutual support system, but it should not call itself radical or part of an anarchist movement, when by its exclusive nature it is not anarchist and certainly doesn't move. Working class people in Liverpool are certainly up against the wall; in capitalist terms they represent a non-malleable work force, and thus the lack of investment and massive redundancies, unemployment and housing conditions equal only to Glasgow; you name it the scouser has copped it. Working people could no doubt use the radical inputs of those who "consciousness has been raised", or could they? As it is maybe they are better off without it. Certainly what seems to exist in most cities in terms of libertarian alternatives, are in effect support systems for middle class deviants, of one hue or the other, ranging from the radical bookshop to the wholefood stores, which are mainly concerned with perpetuating an identity which reinforces their security of membership. Radical cloning and all its sickening conformity to "the rules", regardless of what the rules are for, is a chilling reflection of authoritarianism, in yet another form, which must stifle the power of independent critical thought, in order to maintain itself, through a hierarchy of implicit conformist behaviour. This kind of uniformity is described as "solidarity", just as segregating the sexes - is "consciousness raising", not only has the 70's seen the emergence of radical cloneland, but newspeak as well! Certainly all belief systems seek common modes of identity, but when the uniform becomes an end in itself, radical growth is bound to stagnate in a blind alley of its own conformity; and in terms of working class communication, blind is the operative word.

A divided predatory society forces us into insidious roles that maintain that division and legitimate violence. In social work with young "offenders" I have tried to fight the violence implicit in the soft copper role, by politicising the role of the young person caught up in illegitimate crime, labelling, and in most cases, a lifetime of incarceration. Liverpool is probably the most economically smashed city in the country, and law breaking is rocketing as a reaction to derelict slumland, unemployment, a city that

has been attacked by planned cultural genocide.

I have run a karate group for youngsters and in groups there have been some interesting discussions on what is crime and what isn't, but the bureaucratic pressure involved, outweigh any direct help you can provide, and I am on my way out. But what is disturbing, is that libertarian/socialist propaganda does not touch the lives of these youngsters because of its precious segregation. Unfortunately racist / Nazi propaganda does and it is growing along with economic and political conditions that feed it. There is a lot of silliness in libertarian/socialist thinking that glamourises criminality, and you can bet your life that the people who define it as such, are middle class graduates who have never smelled the inside of a police cell, D.C or Borstal.

Initially the reaction to the law is a healthy rebellion against the system that places them in a soul destroying environment. But without politicisation and radical support, and given

time and institutionalisation it soon assumes the brutality and greed of a failed Thatcher, or power addict of the underclass. As the traditional links of working class solidarity have been broken by mindless housing policies, unemployment, and increasing exposure to the demand for consumerism, so has criminal activity taken a mindless, barbaric course. Taking cars and hit and run driving with a neighbour as the victim is not uncommon. In the Toxteth area, neighbours are no longer neighbours, doors cannot be left open as they were, washing is rarely left on the line because it is soon stolen. Working class kids burgle the houses of their own kind, and kiddie mugging is rife. Merseyside has had 94,000 redundancies in the last 5 years, and Meccano closing recently with more to come, the future of Liverpool is certainly grim, and I would think it is a prototype for what the State has in store for areas with a tradition of industrial militancy, that it doesn't need to perpetuate its rule of class and capital.

As far as the youngsters who are victims of this environment go, Right wing ideology becomes an essential part of their philosophy as he/she internalises the oppression of the various institutions that the State seeks to tame them with, until after Community Home School / Detention Centre and Borstal, they are in most cases fully steeped in authoritarian values and ideas, and shouting the odds for the NF or BM. They advocate the very system of values that puts the noose around their neck. When I have raised this issue with anarchaclones the response has been "who cares" or words

to that effect. With the growth of authoritarian / racist ideology in areas like Merseyside, we should all start caring but bloody quick, if we want to identify with the growth of anarchism tomorrow, or for that matter if we are to have any tomorrow. What ever happened to the traditional anarchist ideals of freedom and responsibility being based on natural morality, for all people?

The anarchaclone culture of today seems to have replaced that with conformity and apathy based on the segregated politics of a blind alley. I hope for our sakes that a way can be found out, because if not the lights will go out for all of us.

Sincerely, Mark News.

EDITORIAL NOTE:

The "anarchaclones" Mark refers too are hardly clones of anarchism but militant liberals trying to ape libertarian ideas. The identifying of anarchism - a revolutionary working class philosophy - with pacifism, by Freedom and subsequently Peace News, has caused this: it has nothing to do with "violence v non-violence", it has to do with trying to squat a homeless idea in the fairly empty house of another.



THE ANARCHIST SOONBOOK WILL HOPEFULLY BE PRINTED BEFORE TOO LONG. HERE IS A SONG FROM IT IN THE MEANTIME:

THE BLACK FLAG

(Tune: Tannenbaum)

The people's flag is deepest black
Red flags are just for autocrats
The workers' state is just a way
To let the revolution fade away.

CHORUS:

So raise our blackest banners high
The people live, only leaders die
The working class will smash the state

We'll shoot the vanguard while we wait.

Let's smash US imperialism
Let's fight all ghosts and monsters too

Leftist leaders would rather see
A good slogan than a real victory.

CHORUS:

Lenin, Stalin, Mao and Benn
Forgive us if we're feeling ill
The working class won't kiss your arse
The worker's state is just a farce

CHORUS:

People's army, people's war
People's police and people's laws
You'll protect the worker's state
Till workers cease to agitate.

CHORUS:

Who are the people you talk about
Power to yourself we have no doubt
You just ride on the workers' gains
BUT WE WANT MORE THAN A CHANGE OF CHAINS.

RONALD SIMPSON

On 23rd October 1976 there was a robbery at the home of a scrap merchant - a Mr Melbourne. Mr Melbourne was at home that evening with his daughter and sons; his wife was out. Their descriptions of the robbery are as follows: A man, dressed as a policeman, knocked at the door and the daughter answered. When she went to get her father the man rushed in behind her and knocked her to the floor. When the father appeared the man hit him with a metal bar and he was dragged bleeding into the front room.



Some other men came in after the first - the victims say there were 3, at the most 5, men in all - and they had guns; one was a sawn off shot gun and the other a pistol. The sons were held in one room the daughter in another. The house was ransacked by the robbers in their search for a large amount of money they believed to be hidden there.

The father was beaten and threatened in an attempt to make him reveal where the money was hidden. His daughter was brought in, she had been told to strip to her underclothes, and the man impersonating a policeman threatened her with rape if the father would not give them the money. Although he would not tell them anything, in their search the men found about £2000 in cash and 3 valuable gold bracelets; they took all this and left.

The police had no clues until over a year later in late 1977, when a man, William Amies, arrested in May of that year, confessed to being on the robbery and made statements alleging that certain other people were on the robber with him. One of these others about whom he makes allegations is a man called Michael Morris, who is now serving a 14-year sentence for his alleged part in that robbery, though he denies any part in it.

Micky Morris pleaded not guilty and spent almost 1½ years in Brixton prison before his trial took place and the Old Bailey in July 1979 before Judge Buzzard. As evidence against him the prosecution had 3 main witnesses: William Amies to allege that Micky was on the robbery; Smith to allege that he had seen Micky on the night of the robbery, wearing a chunky bracelet (supposedly one of the 3 which were stolen); Simpson to allege that while in Brixton prison Micky made certain statements to him confessing he was on the robbery.

There are many discrepancies in the statements of these grasses, which were pointed out by the defence counsel. They even contradicted their own statements when giving evidence in court. In one of Amies' first statements to the police (22nd December 1977) he said there were just 4 men on the robbery. In a later statement (April 1978) he remembered there was another man, making 5 in all.

Black Flag's Court Circular

In the same way, in statements a year apart, his memory improved so that he could remember who had a gun - Micky, of course - what cars were used etc.

David Smith, in a statement to the police (Nov. 1977) remembered a night when Micky Morris and Amies came into a pub together wearing identical gold chunky bracelets. He put the date as "sometime after Christmas 1976". In a statement 2½ years later (July 1979) his memory had improved so that not only did he remember that it was "in late October 1976" he actually recollected it was the night of the robbery. Under cross examination he explained that he remembered it so well as his birthday is in October and he had just left his wife some weeks previously.

Unfortunately Smith's statement contradicted Amies, who had said that after the robbery he and Micky had gone to a friend's house to split the proceeds. He made no mention of the late night visit to the pub.

Ronald Simpson was placed in Brixton prison by the police so that he could later claim that Micky had made admissions to him. Simpson spent 5 days in all in Brixton. He claimed that on the day after he was placed on the same wing as Micky Morris, Micky came to his cell and made certain admissions to him, confess-

ing that he was on the robbery. Two things undermine the validity of this testimony. The day Micky supposedly went into Simpson's cell he was in fact at the magistrates court at a remand hearing. Further a prison officer was called by the defence to give evidence. He said that the day after Simpson was placed on the wing Micky Morris made a complaint to him about Simpson, saying that Simpson was a grass and that he (Morris) wanted nothing to do with him. The prison officer went on to say that he never saw anyone go into Simpson's cell and that Simpson never left his cell. The next day Simpson was transferred to another wing and a few days later was given bail.

Based only on this "evidence" the jury found Micky guilty (by a 10 to 2 majority) and he is now serving a 14 year sentence. The men who grassed on him by comparison are serving 5 year sentences.



Statements of grasses by themselves are not supposed to carry any weight unless supported by corroborative evidence, such as forensic etc. However in this case the corroborative evidence of one statement was taken to be the two other statements. So that, although in law, none of the statements would have been sufficient on its own, together they apparently made a "case" against Micky, which earned him a heavy sentence.

Like all supergrasses Amies is particularly vicious. By his own admissions he often physically attacks his victims without provocation and has sexually assaulted at least 2 of the men he robbed, one of whom as a 16 year old boy. In order to do a deal with the police - to avoid the certainty of a 20 year or more sentence; and to avoid the probability of doing all his time in solitary (as most prisoners are known to hate sex offenders) - he had to offer the police as many names as possible. Although he confessed to 42 crimes, mostly involving violence, he received a 5 year sentence.

Dave Smith, when he was arrested in November 1977 was charged with murder; a charge which carries a mandatory life sentence.

In early 1978, after he had made numerous statements, that charge was dropped to manslaughter. Along with that charge and about 90 robberies taken into consideration he received, what now appears to be the standard sentence for grasses, 5 years.

Ronald Simpson likewise, for a lengthy list of charges stretching back many years received only 5 years. see March BLACK FLAG No. 1 for details to Smith..

NEXT MONTH

Court Circular next month reveals the fate of five ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY MEMBERS in Belfast's judicial system charged with "terrorist" offences.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

From Page 2

ANSWERS TO ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. Simon Newcomb, the master mathematician of the era, proved that a flying machine with passengers was an impossibility; and the Wright Brothers made their pioneer flight in the same year.

2. John Tyndall, in 1883, disproved the previous theories offered in explanation of the Ice Age about the earth cooling or the sun failing to give heat, by proving that heat was needed as much as cold to make glaciers or ice cover. (In case you were misled, the physicist was no relation to the present British Nazi.)

3. The Star of David - adopted as the Israeli flag. The Barcelona dockers associated it with anti-Nazism, and the anti-Franco demonstration - with anti-Catholic overtones - was studiously ignored by the crew who knew their Govt. was cultivating a pro-Franco policy (though Franco a pro-Arab one).

4. Wallace, as a young reporter, covered an English princess's marriage to the King of Spain (when there was a bomb attempt against him) and he stayed to cover the anti-Anarchist hunt that followed, which left him seemingly half-enlightened in his later, novel-writing career.

5. In the socialist meeting Hardie (to his puritanical horror) encountered women drinking in a public saloon, and assumed it was a brothel! He was certain of this in the Anarchist meeting, not a pub, but the ladies were actually SMOKING! He apologised later because he had not realised that "they were Russian ladies who are accustomed to cigarettes".



General Lies Continued

The A.G. said the latest document "could be a hit list of targets" - knowing full well the Press would take it up as an actual hit list. It contained the names of the vetted juror, of Malcolm Muggeridge and Lord Mountbatten. This was stated as an "explanation" of why the hitherto totally unknown chartered accountant Mr David Myddleton was barred by the police, and intended as a sop to him. The gentleman was indignant at being branded an "anarchist" ("I am not my idea of a long haired anarchist" he protested - evidently not having had time to note that neither, perhaps, were the defendants).

LOST MANNA

Several points spring to the mind when hearing this extraordinary statement by Sir Michael Havers. Why was the document never produced? In the lack of any evidence in the trial, it would have been manna from Heaven for the prosecution. Why is it not produced now?

Is it suggested - since Lord Mountbatten is mentioned - that he was not killed by the IRA - but by the Anarchists? - And that the police knew in advance and did nothing? Him apart, the Anarchist targets this century have been Hitler, Mussolini, Lenin, Franco....and Mr Myddleton, the chartered accountant! He seems in the wrong league somehow. In regard to Mr Muggeridge, his conversion to Christianity has irritated many of the Marxist left, but we of Black Flag Group have good reason to know that he is sincere, that he twice gave good time to Anarchists on television and that he acted when occasion demanded with characteristic generosity and selflessness. Indeed, a strange hit list!

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE VETTED JUROR

Then why was Mr Myddleton vetted? The answer is very simple and the police (given their briefing by the A.G.) could not be faulted in this instance. Mr Myddleton has explained his political views which he thinks are "very far" from anarchism but are in reality those which we described in our last issue

(on "The Anarchist Connection" in Espiritu Santo) as the so-called "right wing anarchism" of "anarchist capitalism". He has possibly never come across the American Libertarian Party and takes his views on anarchism from the fascist description (as does Sir Michael) - it is "crime and banditry". He has demonstrated at the Bank of England against State Socialist economic policies and regards all the Parties as identical in economics - he has written equating state socialism with national socialism - all familiar stuff to anarchists, but his corollary is that this "libertarianism" is compatible with capitalism. Familiar views of the American Right, but not the British Right which unites monetarism with fascist "law and order" tendencies, not libertarianism.

The police could hardly be blamed for thinking him an anarchist (if you run off with someone's clothes, don't blame someone else for mistaking your identity). Sir Michael, however, felt sorry for the poor man who only tried to put a gloss on capitalism - and got associated with crime and banditry! He could hardly be expected to worry about the accused facing charge after charge following their acquittal, none of which could stand up in a court of law and can only be repeated in the Coward's Castle of Parliamentary privilege.

The entire press media bayed at Jeff Rooker MP for complaining of bribery in a capitalist firm and being unable to substantiate his allegations. If he misused his privilege, how much more so the cowardly Michael Havers? Yet the press is silent, even when the matter is brought to their attention.

I denounce Michael Havers as a coward and a liar. Let him seek his remedy in the courts. If his legal advisers tell him not to bring an action - "because these people are beneath contempt" (legal jargon for "you'll never be able to collect costs out of the buggers") a reprint of this article will reach his colleagues in Kings Bench, his neighbours in Wimbledon, and Newmarket, his constituents, his colleagues and his clubs. If he does not wish to be branded a coward and a liar he can retract or prove his case.

ALBERT MELTZER

REPLY TO VIEWPOINT CONT.

'Conferences' ? - nothing could be more ridiculous than 'conferences' called now and then by little groups of students in no contact with anything but 'Freedom' because it would be nice to have one. Nothing can be expected: nor could any conference hardly decide there should be no disreputable stooges outside in the cool.

But "believe in the same things"? An anarchist is someone who believes anarchism to be desirable - and possibly they do; who works towards it - less certain; and who thinks it possible - and they never do (they are more into "practical anarchism" which in practice turns out to be social work, and that is not exactly the same thing!)

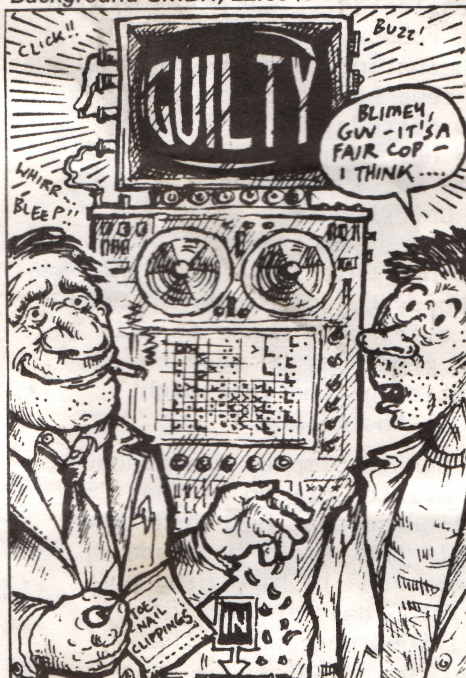
As proved by the Manchester group originally launching the Direct Action Movement which has now grown, a lot can be done by local groups even without a paper. Local papers can be produced (the Orkney 'Free Winged Eagle' is an instance of a fine one) and there are loads of groups publishing from duplicated sheets or posters to books. None of the 'main' papers constitute a hub, nor should they. But distinguish between what is anarchist and what is not; otherwise one is going to assume there is an awful lot of difference. The problem with not having a Party is that one cannot clearly define then with whom one is associated and with whom not. That is the price one pays for avoiding the Party structure.

The Ecology Party is a different kettle of fish....more of that next time!

Without a Trace

JUNE PUBLICATION

Background GMBH, £2.50 (0-904564-38-X)



Humorously written technical manual for dissidents, lawyers and the general public on police use of science, technology and research. Essential reading for everyone interested in knowing how the police operate, how "frame-ups" can be avoided, and the technical limits of forensic science.

Published by Partisan Press, P.O. Box 2193, Seattle, Washington, USA.

Available from:
CIENFUEGOS PRESS BOOK SERVICE.

Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BL, U.K.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

C.N.T. Split

Reply to 'Blackwings'

(both held over from this issue)

A Visit to Cuba

Anarchist Theory:
new series

No.2 of Libertarian
Biographies, series

USUAL FEATURES AND LATEST
NEWS.

SOCIALIST BOOK FAIR
Nov 28/29 Camden Town
Hall, Euston, London.
We'll be there! Black
Flag/Cienfuegos Press
stall (third year, bigger
than ever).

ANARCHIST CLUB in London.
Action soon! Premises now
being considered....



AS ITERS SEE US

Sunday Times 14.2.80

SOUTH LONDON REPORT

From the "wrong" side of the Thames - well, at least we've got it between us and the Houses of Parliament - comes news of an anarchist bookshop planned for Brixton. It'll be a contact place for anarchists in South London, a place to buy and read books, and magazines and a contact address for the Brixton Prisoners Support Group. At the moment, we're negotiating for a local shop, and hope that it'll be sorted out soon. A report on the Prisoner's Book Scheme in the next issue.

From the depths of Lambeth Labour Council's socialist wonderland comes "If You Haven't Got Enough Copies Use The Xerox Machine That's What It's There For". First issue of National Association Trade Union anarchist rancid and fried group paper.